

Report to the 2014 Iowa General Assembly

Collaboration and Teambuilding

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Prepared by

Iowa Board of Physician Assistants - Iowa Board of Medicine

Pursuant to

Iowa Code Chapter 148C

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Joint Report to the 2014 Iowa General Assembly

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine share a common purpose to protect the public. Board members are appointed by the Governor of the State of Iowa to license applicants and impose licensee discipline as authorized by law.

Board powers are conferred by the Iowa Legislature. In 2007, the Legislature passed a bill to amend Iowa Code Chapter 148C by creating a new section that requires the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and the Iowa Board of Medicine to provide a joint report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 31 of each year detailing the boards' collaborative efforts and teambuilding practices. This report highlights primary activities undertaken in 2011 to achieve this purpose.

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine routinely route agendas, rules and other material that might be of interest to each other to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information between the two boards.

Both the Iowa Physician Assistants Board and the Iowa Medical Board routinely places proposed changes to each other's board rules and regulations on their agenda for discussion. As issues of interest are identified each board sends representatives to the other board meeting to facilitate discussion and understanding of each board's position. In addition both boards share their respective board member contact information with each other to facilitate communication. In 2013, the executive director of the Iowa Medical Board attended several meetings of the Board of Physician Assistants and gave an informational presentation regarding Iowa Medical Board rule changes about continuing medical education requirements for physicians among other topics.

To maximize resource use, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine investigators coordinate interview schedules in cases where complaints received involve licensee interests of both boards. In addition both boards share investigative records and findings in such cases as appropriate and allowed by law.

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine hold regularly scheduled public meetings in accord with their mission to protect the public through licensing, rulemaking, and discipline. Meeting agendas are posted on the Internet in accord with Iowa's Open Meetings Law as set forth in Iowa Code Chapter 21. This practice assures that the members of the professional boards remain informed about current and emerging issues impacting the practice of their respective licensees.

On October 17, 2012, three members of the Board of Physician Assistants met with an ad hoc subcommittee to the Iowa Board of Medicine to discuss the topic of physician supervision of physician assistants in Iowa. The group reviewed existing laws and regulations that affect both physicians and physician assistants. There was also discussion of potential routes for educating physicians and physician assistants regarding current supervision requirements, perhaps through involvement of professional societies such as

Iowa Medical Society, Iowa Physician Assistants Society, and/or Iowa Hospital Association. The group also addressed the possible advantages to greater sharing of information between the boards when complaints involve issues of inadequate or inappropriate supervision.

March 11, 2013, the Board of Medicine released guidelines of supervisory responsibilities for physicians. Board of Medicine staff attended the April 17, 2013 Physician Assistants Board meeting to review with the board the guidelines released in March and thank the physician assistants board committee for working with the Board of Medicine on the ad hoc subcommittee on supervision.

The Iowa Board of Medicine has referred reports of competence/conduct to the Iowa Physician Assistants Board. Staff from both boards discusses ways to address emerging issues affecting both boards as needed.

Each year, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine review pending legislation that impacts both boards and work collaboratively, when appropriate, to prepare legislative assessments.

In 2014, the boards will seek additional opportunities to promote public protection through collaborative activities and teambuilding practices.

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine work closely together in issues of mutual interest. Since 2007 both boards have been required to produce a joint annual report summarizing collaborative efforts. Since that time, the report has been annually published with no requests for additional information. To save resources it is recommended that the mandate to produce an annual report by Iowa Code Chapter 148C.12 be eliminated.